



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Information from the Employment Security Department

How to apply for unemployment benefits

Washington Mutual workers who are being laid off may apply for benefits at any time, either online or by phone – although benefit checks will not actually be issued until the layoff takes effect. Completing the application process before the layoff can help workers receive benefits in a timely manner. Applications also may be submitted after the layoff date.

- Apply online at www.go2ui.com (24 hours a day; this provides the fastest service)
- Apply by phone at: 800-318-6022 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; fastest service is Wed.-Fri.)
- TTY for the deaf: 800-365-8969 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

If requested, the Employment Security Department will meet with workers to provide personal assistance in filing for unemployment insurance.

Required documentation

- Social Security Number (alien registration number, if not a U.S. citizen).
- Name and address of all employers for the last two years - including dates of employment.
- If in the military within the last two years, a copy of the DD214.
- If a federal employee within the last two years, a copy of standard forms 8 and 50.

Benefit checks are based on monthly salary or wages

The maximum weekly check is \$541 (for someone earning about \$4,700 a month) and the minimum is \$129 (based on monthly wages of about \$1,100). For comparison purposes: A laid-off worker who earned \$2,500 a month (about \$30,000 a year) could expect a weekly benefit of about \$290.

Unemployment benefits last up to 26 weeks

If a worker qualifies as “dislocated” and is in a full-time training program, he or she may be eligible for training benefits – which provide up to 26 additional weeks of unemployment insurance coverage.

Finding a new job

WorkSource can help match job seekers with job openings in the local community, throughout Washington and nationwide. There are numerous WorkSource centers in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties. Locations can be found online at www.go2worksource.com (click on WorkSource offices) or in the blue pages of the telephone book.

Currently, about 17,000 job openings in Washington are posted online at www.go2worksource.com.

Retraining programs

If workers are deemed eligible for retraining programs, those services will be coordinated through their nearest WorkSource office. Training for dislocated workers is usually customized for each person.

To qualify for retraining, a person must be eligible for or have exhausted unemployment benefits within the last 24 months. He/she also may qualify for financial aid for other educational needs and for services such as child-care and limited transportation costs.

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